



National Commission on the Future of the Army

2530 Crystal Drive, Zachary Taylor Building, Suite 5000
Arlington, VA 22202

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Minutes from Engagement - 24 JUL 15, West Virginia and Arizona Adjutants General

Date: 24 July 2015

Time: 0730 – 1005hrs

Location: Meeting Room, Greenbrier Resort, Whites Sulphur Springs, WV

Format: Round Table Discussion

Attendees:

Commissioner Hon. Thomas Lamont (Vice Chairman)

Commissioner LTG(R) Jack Stultz

MG(R) Ray Carpenter – NCFA Staff, Executive Director

COL Richard Miller – NCFA Staff

Mr. Anthony Boyda Palmer – NCFA Staff

MAJ Cory Simpson – Legal Advisor

Mr. Mark von Heeringen – Alternate Designated Federal Officer (ADFO)

Hon. Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor of West Virginia

MG James Hoyer - The Adjutant General for the State of West Virginia

Maj. Gen. Michael McGuire - The Adjutant General for the State of Arizona (AFNG)

CSM Chris Belford

SGM Alex Coy

MSG Dennis Riggs

MSG Tom Edmunds

MSG Jeff Wales

LTC Greg Grant

MAJ Wallie Hatfield

MAJ Robert Kincaid

Mr. Bill Suver

MSG Angie Coleman

LTC Kevin ray

SSG Bradley Convrey

CPT Jason Freeman

SGT Sean Courtney

LTC Patrick Chard

SSG Katie Nesselrodt

SGT Rob Cunningham

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Minutes from Engagement - 24 JUL 15, West Virginia and Arizona Adjutants General

Documents Submitted to Commission:

1. West Virginia National Guard (WVNG) Story Boards
2. WVNG Cyber Initiatives, WVNG Information Paper
3. Camp Branch, WVNG Information Paper
4. Naval Special Warfare Operational Stocks, WVNG Information Paper
5. State Partnership Program West Virginia-Peru, WVNG Information Paper
6. Ridge Runner Irregular Warfare training, WVNG Information Paper
7. Advanced Counter Terrorism Technology Training and Testbed, WVNG Information Paper
8. Advanced Mobility Training Area, WVNG Information Paper
9. Albright Power Plant, WVNG Information Paper
10. Camp Dawson, WVNG Information Paper
11. Joint Interagency Training and Education Center, WVNG Information Paper

Meeting Summary

Commissioners Lamont and Stultz conducted a round table discussion with The Adjutants General of the States of West Virginia and Arizona, and seventeen members of their commands and staffs. Commissioner Lamont explained the purpose of the National Commission on the Future of the Army and described the discussion as information gathering on the issues before the Commission. The ADFO explained the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) provisions that guide the Commission's processes.

The discussion began as a series of story-board presentations by select Soldiers/Airmen with MG Hoyer providing introductions. Each Soldier/Airman then discussed his/her military and civilian experience along with key aspects of their organization's role in the National Guard and support of the State, the Army, and National Defense missions.

MG Hoyer explained that the 19th Special Forces Group (SFG) has elements in nine states, is unique in its mission, and seamlessly deploys with or in support of the Active Component (AC). There are seven SFGs in the Army with five in the AC and two in the National Guard.

Various command members discussed integration of Special Forces operations into AC missions and how the Total Force concept works in Army Special Operations Forces: (1) Joint Interagency Training and Education Center and its focus on CBRNE threats, (2) Civil Support Team training, and (3) Irregular Warfare training with Lithuanian Soldiers and other State Partnership Programs.

Discussion turned to challenges with AC/RC transition programs for Soldiers to move between Army components. They emphasized that points of contact at Fort Bragg, home of the Army special forces command and schoolhouse, often do not know the particulars in a given state and as a result, sometimes miss opportunities to counsel interested AC members on the Reserve Component (RC) opportunities available when those AC members leave active duty.

The story board discussions continued with more personal stories from the presenters and discussions about other WVNG capabilities, such as: (1) 35th Civil Support Team (CST) and CERFP (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosive Enhanced

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Minutes from Engagement - 24 JUL 15, West Virginia and Arizona Adjutants General

Response Force Package) support to the 101st Air Assault Division for recent deployment to Ebola-plagued Liberia; and (2) utility and flexibility inherent in the Camp Dawson training facilities (e.g., how they supported 5th SFG and USMC with tailored scenarios).

Another Soldier discussed the West Virginia State Partnership Program with Peru and demand signals for civil support disaster response training that came thorough the U.S. Embassy from the Peruvian government. WVNG was able to provide that training and, in the near future, will select team members to travel to Peru for further engagement. An Airman highlighted further support to Peru with counter-drugs law enforcement activities and another scenario discussed security cooperation with Brazil in support of Special Operations Command South and the CERFP, yet again helping train response teams in preparation for the upcoming Olympic Games. They also discussed RC-26 Metroliner aircraft support to SOF missions. MG Hoyer mentioned that 40% of missions being flown in Combat theaters are being done by contractors, rather than military.

The next topic was Camp Dawson and the Advanced Mobility Training Area. The facility is used by Navy SEAL teams, law enforcement agencies, USMC, and others. Combined training at Camp Dawson integrates the employment of diverse unit sets into various real-world training platforms. WVNG worked an alternative funding mechanism to establish the mobility training site by using a local coal company as a resource.

The story board discussions closed with a brief overview of the Special Repair Activity (SRA) run by the WVNG in support of Army Materiel Command and the Educational Encouragement Program. The SRA programs highlighted included the largest tire rebuild facility in the Army as well as U.S. Central Command's generator maintenance program. One officer touting educational opportunities while serving with the National Guard and how those could be increasingly pointed at cyber capability quipped, "I may not be physically imposing, but I can assure you, I am a digital bad ass!"

An open question and answer session then ensued. During this question and answer time, Commissioner Lamont provided a brief overview of the Commission's work and cited some of the Commission's previous visits with various State Adjutants General, Combatant Commanders, Governors, aviation representatives, and monthly open meetings with the public.

Commissioner Lamont asked what capability the National Guard least could afford to lose, to which MG Hoyer, responded that it is very difficult to answer because the Guard must retain both the combat role and domestic state support perspective –e.g., natural disasters such as recent derecho,¹ Hurricane Sandy, and others that instantly made CST capabilities extremely important assets. In short, it's difficult to know what might be needed next.

Maj. Gen. McGuire offered that the States need great command structure and leadership. He added that he would not be willing to give up anything the Army and Air Force thinks they need. He also stated that if the Army National Guard is organized and funded for the combat role, it will use those same combat organizations to do their domestic role. Maj. Gen. McGuire also

¹ A derecho is a widespread, long-lived, straight-line wind storm that is associated with a land-based, fast-moving group of severe thunderstorms. Derechos can cause hurricane force winds, tornadoes, heavy rains, and flash floods.

SUBJECT: National Commission on the Future of the Army (NCFA) Minutes from Engagement - 24 JUL 15, West Virginia and Arizona Adjutants General

stated that the Army's Aviation Restructure Initiative (ARI) is more about aviation depth, than which Army component has the aircraft. He stated that the Army cannot afford to lose the large numbers of AH64 trained pilots and maintenance subject matter experts in the RC.

Governor Tomblin joined the meeting briefly from 0940-0945 and discussed the importance of the National Guard to the people of West Virginia. He noted that anytime there's trouble, he "calls the general," meaning the State Adjutant General, MG Hoyer. MG Hoyer then talked about the Guard's response to a recent water contamination crisis and mentioned his teams were able to achieve a water purity standard well below what the Centers for Disease Control required. Governor Tomblin tasked the MG Hoyer to provide the Commissioners a summary paper of the water crisis response.

A WVNG staff member discussed the process employed by the Army National Guard Bureau G-3, Chief, Operations, to achieve directed reductions. He explained this often involved trading capabilities and units back and forth until overall best fit was achieved. MG Hoyer thought it might be good to do this in a multi-compo setting to help force structure managers from all components of the Army to readily see the total force.

MG Hoyer stated that when looking at force structure it would be more constructive to ask, what does the Guard and Reserve have that can better be used in national security missions, rather than what does a state need for its response missions.

Two final discussion items were the general need to be more transparency between the components of the Army and reducing cultural barriers to freely moving back and forth from Active to Reserve and vice versa to facilitate a continuum of service. Commissioner Stultz made the comment that one possibility would be to place AC Soldiers who "need a break" into the RC, and filling those AC voids with RC Soldiers, thereby meeting the Army's mission.

The meeting at concluded at 1005hrs with Commissioner Lamont thanking the group for their excellent presentations and service to the Nation.